

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

-----211140Z 022340 /11

R 211059Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0295

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: THANAT KHOMAN SUBMITS RESIGNATION FROM NARA

1. BANGKOK PRESS REPORTED MARCH 21 THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSEMBLY (NARA) ON MARCH 19 THE FIRST PERSON TO DO SO. IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION, THANAT SAID HE RESIGNED IN PROTEST AGAINST THE PASSAGE OF THE MERCHANT MARINE PROMOTION BILL INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT INTO THE ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 18. HE SAID HE OBJECTED TO THE BILL BECAUSE IT DID LITTLE TO PROMOTE THE MERCHANT MARINE AND CONTAINED SEVERAL ARTICLES THAT ARE AGAINST THE LAW.

2. EMBASSY LEARNED ON MARCH 21 FROM A MEMBER OF THE NARA SECRETARIAT (WHO CONFIRMED THE RECEIPT AND REGISTRY OF THE RESIGNATION) THAT IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION, THANAT STRONGLY CRITICIZED SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ACM HARIN HONGSAKUN FOR RAMRODDING BILLS THROUGH THE ASSEMBLY AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE DRAGGED INTO ENACTING LAWS LIKELY TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST. NARA SECRETARIAT SOURCE ALSO TOLD EMBASSY THAT THANAT APPARENTLY WAS FURIOUS BECAUSE THE SPEAKER REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE HIM DURING THE DEBATE AND  
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INSTEAD CLOSED DISCUSSION AND CALLED FOR A VOTE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THE FACT OF THANAT'S RESIGNATION IS CLEAR, SPEAKER HARIN HAS STATED HE WOULD CONSIDER WHETHER HE IS EMPOWERED TO ACCEPT IT. THANAT IS NOT RPT NOT THE ONLY MEMBER OF NARA TO EXPRESS DISATISFACTION AT THE WAY BILLS ARE HURRIED THROUGH LEGISLATIVE PROCESS. NARA

IS AN APPOINTIVE ASSEMBLY, BUT THANAT IS IN A STRONG  
ENOUGH POSITION TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITIONS AT TIMES CRITICAL  
OF THE GOVERNMENT.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, NARA, NAT ADMIN REFORM ASSEMBLY, (THANAT KHOMAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009